

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04831 161749Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009576 161749Z /46

O R 161734Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6823
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04831

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, UNSC, SO, ET, GW
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN

REFS: (A) STATE 065221; (B) STATE 066245; (C) BONN 3091

1. WE CONVEYED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTELS A AND B TO THE FOREIGN
OFFICE (DIRECTOR FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, KREMER)
ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 16. KREMER TOOK NOTES ON THE
LIST OF DESIRABLE ELEMENTS IN ANY OAU OR UNSC ACTION
(PARA 5 REFTEL A.)

2. ON THE QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN,
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KREMER SAID THE FRG CONTINUES TO VIEW THE AFRICANS
THEMSELVES AS THE KEY; WITHOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM
INFLUENTIAL COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGERIA, GABON, ETC.,
THERE WAS LITTLE VALUE IN A UN DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE
AT THIS TIME. AT PRESENT, KREMER SAID, THE CLEAR
AFRICAN PREFERENCE IS FOR A SOLUTION UNDER OAU
AUSPICES AND UNLESS THE OAU EFFORT FALTERS,

THE AFRICANS WILL CONTINUE
TO OPPOSE UN INVOLVEMENT. THE NIGERIANS, PARTICULARLY,
HAVE INVESTED MUCH PRESTIGE IN AN OAU SETTLEMENT,
ALTHOUGH NEWS OF THE ETHIOPIAN REFUSAL TO ATTEND THE
OAU GOOD OFFICES MEETING MIGHT SHAKE THEIR SELF-
CONFIDENCE.

3. KREMER NOTED THAT WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT WHAT THE
SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TELLING THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE
SOMALIS AND THAT LITTLE COULD BE DONE WITHOUT THEIR
COOPERATION, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WE COULD
RALLY AMONG OTHER AFRICANS.

4. COMMENT: KREMER'S COMMENTS CONFIRM THAT THE GERMAN
POSITION REMAINS AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL C: THE FRG
FAVORS A UNSC CONSIDERATION OF THE HORN BUT STRONGLY
PREFERS THAT ANY RESOLUTION BE INTRODUCED AND ACTIVELY
SUPPORTED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. WITHOUT THAT
SUPPORT, WESTERN EFFORTS ARE LIKELY TO BE FUTILE AND
MIGHT ANTAGONIZE AFRICAN STATES WHOSE GOOD WILL AND
COOPERATION THE WEST NEEDS IN OTHER CONTEXTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN04831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780117-0873
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaacagn.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 552c4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 65221, 78 STATE 66245, 78 BONN 3091
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3314936
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN
TAGS: PDEV, SO, ET, GE, UNSC, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/552c4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014